

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 (ISO) W
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R 221231Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2372
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4970

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), PDEV, SW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO SWEDEN

1. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG'S VISIT TO SWEDEN NOV 16-20 WAS A
SOLID DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS. I CANNOT IMAGINE A MORE HELPFUL
VISITOR, WHETHER IN TERMS OF BUILDING GOOD WILL AMONG THE
SWEDISH PEOPLE OR IN TERMS OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE SWEDISH
GOVERNMENT.

2. WHAT WAS CONCEIVED AS A RELATIVELY RELAXED VISIT TURNED
INTO A MARATHON OF OFFICIAL TALKS AND PRESS MEETINGS BETWEEN
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PUBLIC APPEARANCES. DESPITE SOME TESTY QUESTIONS FROM
ANTAGONISTIC QUESTIONERS IN SWEDISH TV AND AMONG IRANIAN
STUDENTS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG GAVE COMMONSENSE ANSWERS IN
A FRIENDLY SPIRIT, AND MADE AN ENORMOUS POSITIVE
IMPRESSION ON SWEDISH AUDIENCES. ON THE QUESTIONS THAT
ENGAGE SWEDES MORALLY--ESPECIALLY AFRICAN AND NORTH-SOUTH
MATTERS--YOUNG PRESENTED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION

POSITIONS CONGENTLY AND WITH DISARMING FRANKNESS. I FELT THAT IN HIS TELEVISION APPEARANCES, IN PARTICULAR, WHERE HE REACHED VERY LARGE AUDIENCES, YOUNG DID THE US A LOT OF GOOD BY SHOWING IN SPECIFIC TERMS OUR CONCERN WITH THE SAME PROBLEMS THAT PREOCCUPY THE SWEDES. (IN A NOV 19 EDITORIAL, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LIBERAL PAPER VESTMANLANDS LANS TIDNING SAID: "ANDREW YOUNG TAUGHT US MORE IN HALF AN HOUR YESTERDAY ON TVA BOUT WHAT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES CAN DO FOR AFRICA THAN OUR OWN PUBLICATIONS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DOING IN SEVERAL YEARS. LET US HOPE HE WILL SOON BE BACK TO CONTINUE HIS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL MISSION HERE.")

3. THE GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO WELCOME AMBASSADOR YOUNG BECAUSE, TO BE FRANK, HE HELPED THE NON-SOCIALIST COALITION ESTABLISH A CERTAIN IDENTITY IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT THEY ARE FINDING DIFFICULT TO DO AGAINST PALME'S FAME AND CONTINUED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISM. THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER MINISTERS CONVERSED AT LENGTH WITH YOUNG ABOUT AFRICA AND THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS IS A BIG PLUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, YOUNG WAS VERY DIPLOMATIC IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, AND EVEN-HANDED IN HIS APPROACH (AS DEMONSTRATED BY HIS CALL ON PALME), SO THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAD NO CAUSE TO BE UPSET. THUS HE PULLED THE NEAT TRICK OF HELPING US BOTH WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND

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THE OPPOSITION.

4. THE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS CONCERNED MOSTLY SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WITH THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE A DISTANT SECOND. YOUNG WAS ASKED IN MANY PLACES ABOUT OUR ILO WITHDRAWAL, AND SPOKE FRANKLY ABOUT THE POLITICS OF THE DECISION, WHILE EMPHASIZING HIS HOPE THAT THE US WOULD COME BACK IN WHEN CONDITIONS WERE RIGHT. IN NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS, THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE WAS ON DEBT FORGIVENESS: YOUNG APPLAUDED THE SWEDISH DECISION (BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY) AS GOOD MORALS AND GOOD BUSINESS, BUT HE EXPLAINED WHY THE US COULD NOT DO THE SAME THING. (THE SWEDES WERE PERSISTENT IN THEIR ARGUMENTS ON THIS ISSUE.) ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, YOUNG FURNISHED A GREAT DEAL OF USEFUL DETAILED INFORMATION TO THE GOS: THE EXCHANGE WAS FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE, WITH A THEME (AS FOREIGN MINISTER SODER RECALLED IN HER TOAST AT HER DINNER FOR YOUNG) OF A COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE ON AFRICA. IT WAS CLEAR THAT ON SOUTH AFRICA PARTICULARLY THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF OUTLOOK, WITH THE SWEDES PRESSING FOR MORE AND MORE SANCTIONS ACTION AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME, AND WITH YOUNG ASKING FOR A DEGREE OF PATIENCE AND EXPRESSING

MORE OPTIMISM ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
THERE. THIS COUNSEL OF PATIENCE COMBINED WITH YOUNG'S
MORAL OUTLOOK ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS OF PARTICULAR
EDUCATIONAL VALUE FOR THE SWEDISH OFFICIALS, I BELIEVE.

5. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS WITH A CABLE ON THE SUBSTANTIVE
TALKS AS WELL AS A DETAILED MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION.
FOR THE PRESENT I MERELY WISH TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION,
AS AMBASSADOR, FOR YOUNG'S EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL VISIT TO
SWEDEN. HIS STAFF AIDE, STONEY COOKS WAS NO LESS HELPFUL
AND GREATLY ADDED TO THE SUCCESS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
MISSION. BOTH ADVANCED THE US INTEREST MANY MILES BY
THEIR STAY IN STOCKHOLM.
KENNEDY-MINOTT
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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